

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 02118 090608 Z

14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

SAJ-01 CU-04 GAC-01 RSR-01 /099 W

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R 081620 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1258

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 2118

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV, NL

SUBJECT: NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT: CONTROVERSY OVER

ALLOCATION OF STATE SECRETARIES MAY MEAN

SLIPPAGE IN DATE NEW CABINET SWORN IN

REF: THE HAGUE 2104

1. SUMMARY: UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS OVER ALLOCATION OF STATE SECRETARIES' POSITIONS PROBABLY MEANS NEW GOVT CANNOT BE SWORN IN MAY 10. NEW TARGET DATE IS MAY 11 BUT THERE POSSIBILITY FORMATEURS MAY NEED WEEKEND TO WRAP THINGS UP. END SUMMARY.

2. CONTROVERSY HAS ARISON OVER STATE SECRETARIES DISTRIBUTION IN NEW CABINET. LABOR' S PROFESSOR ROELING, SLATED FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS , HAS INDICATED HE WISHES TO REMAIN AT HIS UNIVERSITY. HE WILL BE REPLACED BY AMSTERDAM PROFESSOR KOOYMANS OF THE ARP. TRADE- OFF IS ACCEPTANCE OF TV OMBUDSMAN MARCEL VAN DAM (LABOR) AS STATE SECRETARY. RADICAL MINISTER OF CULTURE VAN DOORN HAS DECLINED VAN DAM' S SERVICES AS HAS ARP MINISTER SOCIAL AFFAIRS BOERSMA.

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3. MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (DESIGNATE) PRONK TOLD EMBOFF AFTERNOON MAY 8 QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER VAN DAM WILL GO TO DEFENSE AS STATE SECRETARY FOR PERSONNEL OR TO WATERWAYS AS WESTERTERP' S STATE SECRETARY. PRONK THINKS LATTER IS MORE PROBABLE THUS PERMITTING KVP' S MOMMERSTEEG TO STAY AT DEFENSE. PRONK SAID FINAL PROBLEM IS GETTING JUSTICE MINISTER VAN AGT TO ACCEPT D-66' S ANNEKE GOUDSMIT AT JUSTICE. VAN AGT IS RESISTING GOUDSMIT (A LEADER GRANTEE) BECAUSE OF HER SHARP ATTACKS ON HIM DURING DEBATES IN THE CHAMBER.

3. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER MAY 10 TARGET DATE FOR SWEARING IN WOULD SLIP. POKK THOUGHT MAY 11 NOW MORE LIKELY AND SAID THERE OUTSIDE CHANCE FORMATEURS MIGHT NEED WEEKEND TO WRAP UP PACKAGE. EMBOFF ASKED WHEN PRONK EXPECTED REGERINSVERKLARING (STATEMENT ON GOVT PROGRAM). THE MINISTER DESIGNATE SAID SECOND CHAMBER CHAIRMAN VONDELING WAS PUSHING FOR LAST WEEK IN MAY, E. E. MAY 28 SINCE 31 DUTCH HOLIDAY. (CHAMBER NORMALLY MEETS TUESDAY- THURSDAY). PROBLEM WAS THAT THERE STILL CONSIDERABLE WORK TO DO SINCE NEW GOVT REALLY " HAD NO PROGRAM". ALSO AJAX (AMSTERDAM FOOTBALL TEAM) CUP MATCH BEING TELEVISED MAY 30 PRESUMABLY PREEMPTING TV COVERAGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON GOVERNMENT STATEMENT. PRONK THOUGHT FIRST FULL WEEK IN JUNE BEST BET BUT EMPHASIZED THINGS STILL UP IN THE AIR.

5. COMMENT: FORMATEURS BURGER AND RUPPERT, WHO WANT NO LOOSE ENDS ON PACKAGE THEY WILL PRESENT TO QUEEN, WANT FULL TEAM OF STATE SECRETARIES IN PLACE PRIOR TO NEW CABINET' S CONSTITUENT MEETING. THIS IN CONTRAST TO 1971 PROCEDURE WHEN SEVERAL STATE SECRETARIES NAMED WELL AFTER FIRST BIESHEUVEL GOVT ASSUMED OFFICE. VAN DAM, THE TV OMBUDSMAN, IS ONE OF NETHERLANDS BEST KNOWN AND MOST POPULAR FIGURES. VAN DOORN AND BOERSMA ARE OBVIOUSLY WARY OF BEING UPSTAGED. LEFT WING WANTS VAN DAM IN GOVT EVEN MORE NOW THAT ROELING, A FAVORITE OF THE EXTREME LEFT, HAS OPTED OUT. APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR KOOYMANS, A LEFT WING MEMBER OF ARP, IS EFFORT TO PLACATE ARP BUT ALSO SUGGESTS LEFT WING HAS DECIDED IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE CONFIDENTIAL AT FOREIGN MINISTRY. MIDDENDORF

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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